



United States *House of Representatives*

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DEMOCRATIC WINS IN THE FY20 NDAA

This first NDAA under the new Democratic majority secures a strong national defense that is built on Democratic principles and advances American values. The final conference report authorizes a smart defense posture and delivers for the people – namely our service members and their families – by implementing long-sought reforms, like **Paid Parental Leave for all federal employees, and a repeal of the “widow’s tax.”**

Thanks to these and other critical provisions, the FY20 NDAA not only fulfills Congress’ important constitutional obligation to “provide for the common defense,” but also **takes care of the single most valuable asset in our national defense strategy: Our service members.**

IMPLEMENTS PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

- **Provides federal employees with 12 weeks paid parental leave in the case of birth, adoption, or fostering.**
- To be eligible, the employee must have one year of service in the federal government (cumulative across different agencies).
- After receiving this benefit, employees must return to work for 12 weeks.
 - This requirement can be waived in the case of a physical or emotional illness, or a circumstance outside of the parents’ control.
- Brings Civilian Employee parental leave benefits more in line with what military personnel receive.
- Could result in cost savings in terms of retention rates and can be a tool to help recruit and compete for talent with private industry.

REPEALS THE “WIDOW’S TAX”

- When a service member makes the ultimate sacrifice for our country, their spouse receives annuity payments from both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.
- The VA program, called the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program, supports the military families of service members who lost their lives in the line of duty.
- The DOD’s plan, called the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), is an insurance plan that service members pay into with monthly premiums.
- **Under current law, the family’s SBP payment is reduced, dollar for dollar, by the DIC payment.**
- **The FY20 NDAA repeals this reduction over a three year phase-in, allowing surviving families to collect both payments in full.**

REFORMS THE FERES DOCTRINE

- Under current law, service members on active duty who are victims of medical malpractice in a Military Treatment Facility are prevented from filing claims for personal injury or death.
- **The FY20 NDAA creates a pathway for a service member to file a claim for themselves, or a family member, in the case of medical malpractice – providing our service members an opportunity to seek justice.**





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WATER CONTAMINATION: PFOS, PFOA, AFFF

- **Bans DOD use of fire fighting agents containing PFAS by 2024 and forcing DOD to prioritize the effort to find a safe alternative.**
- Requires DOD to ensure that when disposing of AFFF and supplies used to remediate PFAS contamination (such as water filters) it does so in a manner that is safe and does not create further pollution.
- **Bans the use of PFAS chemicals in the packaging of the meals (MREs)** our service members eat when deployed in combat areas and for training.
- Closes a loophole in the DOD Environmental clean-up accounts that was keeping the National Guard from being able to access these funds to address PFOS and PFOA contamination.
- Authorizes DOD to provide alternative water to farmers effected by PFAS contaminated agricultural water.
- Bans the use of fire fighting agents containing PFAS for training.
- Bans the uncontrolled release of fire fighting agents containing PFAS for any purpose other than putting out fires.
- Addresses DOD's refusal to acknowledge State-promulgated drinking water standards by requiring their use when they are more stringent than federal standards.
- **Agrees to all portions of the Senate PFAS package except Safe Drinking Water Regulation because the Senate would not agree to protect vulnerable populations.**

AFGHAN SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS

- **Allocates an additional 4,000 visas allowing Afghans** (and their families) whose service to the U.S. Government puts them at great personal risk, immigrate to the United States.
- **Modifies eligibility requirements for the program to all who, "provided faithful and valuable service to the U.S. Government,"** consistent with the original language of the "Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009."





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TAKES CARE OF SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- **Comprehensive Mental Health Policy:** This provision requires the Department of Defense to develop a comprehensive mental health policy that looks at the availability of mental health services for service members and the effectiveness in how these services are delivered.
- **Mental Health Referrals:** Allows service members to be referred for mental services in the civilian community within 15 days of requesting treatment if the services are not available at a Military Treatment Facility.
- **Report on Suicide Prevention Programs:** Requires a report on the effectiveness of suicide prevention programs and the development of metrics evaluating treatment plans, mental health screenings and resiliency programs.
- **Deferred deployment for members who give birth:** Mandates a 1-year deployment deferment for mothers after birth of a child.
- **Authorizing members to take leave for a birth or adoption in more than one increment:** Allows service members to take their authorized time off for birth of a child as they see fit versus on one large chunk.
- **Death gratuity for ROTC graduates:** Allows the families of recent ROTC graduates who pass away to receive the \$100,000 death gratuity even if they have not reported to their first duty station at the time of death.
- **Adopts the Fentanyl Sanctions Act to combat the opioid epidemic, which implements a number of economic and financial sanctions to cripple the operations of foreign traffickers of opioids.**
- **Parole in Place:** Requires the Sec Homeland Security to consider whether granting a request for parole in place from a member of the Armed Forces for a family member would enable military family unity that would constitute a significant public benefit.

ADDRESSES MILITARY HOUSING ISSUES

- **Military Family Housing:** Adopts numerous provisions that reform the oversight and management of military family housing; and **establishment of rights and responsibilities of military family housing landlords and tenants.**
- **Prohibits the use of non-disclosure agreements** in connection with entering into, continuing, or terminating a lease for on-base military housing.
- **Authorizes an additional \$140.8 million to hire additional civilian personnel to improve oversight and management of military family housing.**
- **Creates a public database for complaints related to military housing,** requires annual financial audits of randomly selected privatized military family housing, and annual congressional reports on the condition, maintenance, and management of privatized military family housing.
- **Housing Hazard Assessment Tool:** Requires the Department of Defense to develop a health and safety hazard assessment tool for housing and provide a summary report to potential occupants





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PROTECTS VICTIMS OF SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC ASSAULT

- **Defense Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct:** Requires the Establishment of a Defense Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct.
- **Training for Special Victims' Counsel on civilian criminal justice matters in the States of the military installations to which assigned:** Requires training for Special Victims' Counsel (SVCs) on local criminal laws in order to adequately advise sexual assault victims on their choice for prosecution jurisdiction.
- **Improvement of Special Victims' Counsel authorities:** Requires SVCs to advise sexual assault victims on rights related to retaliation.
- **Consideration of request for transfer of a cadet or midshipman at a military service academy who is the victim of a sexual assault or related offense:** Establishes regulations providing for timely consideration of transfer applications for military service academy students who are the victims of sexual assault and related offenses.
- **Legal Counsel for victims of alleged domestic violence offenses:** Requires the DOD to establish a program by 2020 to provide legal counsel to domestic violence victims and to report to Congress on how they will structure and implement the program.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND THE WALL

- **Border Wall Backfill:** Does not authorize any backfill of military construction funds taken for the President's border wall.
- **Disaster Related Military Construction:** Authorizes \$4.1 billion for emergency-designated military construction projects necessary to support disaster recovery and reconstruction at military installations impacted by hurricanes, flooding, and earthquakes.
- **Requires an assessment of the impact of any planned or proposed border wall construction would have on the volume of illegal narcotics entering the United States.**
- Requires the Department of Defense to transmit to congress the original requests for assistance received from Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as the Department's official response for requests they will support. **This will allow greater oversight on the support the Department provides other agencies along the southern border.**

PROTECTS DREAMERS IN THE ARMED SERVICES

- **Prohibition on involuntary separation and consideration of military service in removal determinations:** Prohibits a member who is protected under DACA or TPS from being involuntarily separated from the military, and requires that a veterans military service shall be consider in any determination for removal proceedings
- **Citizenship:** Requires counseling to service members who are not citizens on how to apply as well as inclusion of questions on the pre-separation counseling checklist on immigration status to ensure those leaving the military know how to apply for citizenship.





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PROMOTES A DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE MILITARY

- **Diversity Plan:** Requires the Secretary of Defense to update and implement the Department of Defense Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.
- **Diversification of the research and engineering workforce of the Department of Defense:** Strengthens and diversifies the Department's science and technology workforce and infrastructure.
- **Marine Corps gender integration:** Requires Marine Corps to gender integrate basic training at Parris Island within 5 years and San Diego within 8.
- **Assessment of racial, ethnic, and gender disparities in the military justice system:** Requires DOD to record and maintain information regarding race, ethnicity, and gender and requires the Secretary of Defense to establish guidance to further identify any disparities and to take action on any identified disparities during the justice process.
- **Requires DoD to submit an initial report,** within 120 days of enactment, and an annual report for two years thereafter, **setting forth information about the number of transgender applicants and transgender service members who sought and received a waiver or an exception to policy to permit their enlistment, accession, or retention in the military.**
- **National study on defense research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Other Minority Institutions:** Establishes a National Study on Defense Research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions.
- **HBCU/MSI Funding Increases:** Increases funding and support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions.

ADOPTS THE FAIR CHANCE ACT

- **Prevents the federal government—including the executive, legislative, and judicial branches—from requesting criminal history information from applicants until they reach the conditional offer stage;**
- Prohibits federal contractors from requesting criminal history information from candidates for positions within the scope of federal contracts until the conditional offer stage;
- Includes important exceptions for positions related to law enforcement and national security duties, positions requiring access to classified information, and positions for which access to criminal history information before the conditional offer stage is required by law; and
- Requires the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in coordination with the U.S. Census Bureau, to issue a report on the employment statistics of formerly incarcerated individuals.





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CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

- **Readiness Environmental Protection Initiative:** Authorizes \$100 million, \$25 million above the budget request, for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), supports land conservation efforts in cooperation with local communities to prevent incompatible development around military bases and ranges.
- **Climate Resiliency Provisions:** Contains a number of provisions that require DOD to identify, mitigate, and plan for the material impacts of climate change on military installations and infrastructure.
- **Requires DOD develop installation master plans that assess current climate vulnerabilities** and plan for mitigating the risks to installations from extreme weather events, mean sea level fluctuation, wildfires, flooding, and other changes in environmental conditions using projections from recognized governmental and scientific entities.
- **Limits DOD's ability to spend planning and design funds until it initiates the process of amending the building standards for military construction** (Unified Facility Criteria) to ensure that building practices and standards promote energy, climate, and cyber resilience at military installations.
- **Requires all proposals for military construction projects to consider potential long-term changes in environmental conditions**, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events, as well as, industry best-practices to withstand extreme weather events.
- **Requires DOD to report on the feasibility of transitioning installation planning from 100-year floodplain data to a forward-looking predictive model** that takes into account the impacts of sea-level rise.
- Establishes a pilot authority for the Department of Defense to carry out military construction projects, with prior congressional notification, that enhance military installation resilience, mission assurance, support mission critical functions, and address known vulnerabilities.
- **Direct Air Capture and Blue Carbon Removal Technology Program:** Creates a program for air capture and blue carbon removal technology to strengthen the sustainment of our Navy and combat climate warming.
- **Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program: Authorizes \$283 million, an additional \$133 million**, for military construction projects that improve energy resiliency or energy conservation efforts at a military installation.
- **Requires the DOD to consult with experts from other agencies to adapt or develop a tool that can help them better assess and plan for climate risk.**
- Requires the DOD to identify and remove barriers to resiliency and to reform policies and programs to better address climate vulnerability.
- Requires DOD to have a dedicated budget line to address resiliency to extreme weather events.
- Requires Navy to purchase, with a \$10 million authorization, a portable detonation chamber to reduce the amount of open detonations on Vieques, Puerto Rico .
- Requires the Comptroller General to complete a study on the Federal cleanup and decontamination process on Vieques and Culebra, Puerto Rico, to include an assessment of the impacts on public health and safety of the clean-up activities.





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IMPROVES NUCLEAR OVERSIGHT AND STRATEGIC DETERRANCE

- **Nuclear safety:** Increases the legal authority of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to conduct nuclear safety oversight of the nuclear security enterprise.
- **Nuclear weapons budget:** Mandates that DOD and NNSA budget officials participate in Nuclear Weapons Council meetings to inform requirements and program decisions on nuclear weapons programs; also requires CBO report on acquisition costs of nuclear modernization, including as percentage of acquisition, to increase transparency of nuclear weapons costs.
- **ICBMs:** Extends prohibition on development of mobile ICBMs.
- **Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent:** A reduction of \$40 million to the program.
- **No First Use:** Requires an independent report on a U.S. policy of not using nuclear weapons first.
- **Arms control/strategic stability:** Limits withdrawal from the New START and Open Skies treaties (120 day wait period and requires consultation).
- **Nuclear non-proliferation:** Authorizes \$20M for research and development on using low-enriched uranium for naval reactor fuel to reduce the use of nuclear weapons-grade uranium.
- **Study of risks of nuclear war:** Independent report on risks of nuclear war and nuclear terrorism.
- **Waste reclassification:** Limits the Administration from reclassifying high-level waste in WA state for FY2020.
- **INF-range missiles:** Prohibits production and deployment of ground-launched missiles in FY2020; Requires report on analysis of alternatives, on basing options and whether deployment in Europe would require NATO consensus.
- **Independent study on impacts of missile defense development and deployment:** Requires an independent assessment on the impacts of U.S. missile defense development on the security of the United States as a whole.
- **National Missile Defense Policy:** Updates the national missile defense policy to state that U.S. homeland missile defense will be targeted against rogue states, and will rely on nuclear deterrence for near-peer adversary ballistic missile threats.
- **Improvements to missile defense testing and reporting:** Requires increased operationally realistic testing, specifically with regards to countermeasures, of missile defense systems and increased analysis and reporting on the results of those tests.
- **Next Generation Interceptor:** Increases oversight of the ground-based midcourse defense system and places a 50 percent fence on FY20 efforts for a next generation interceptor until the Department of Defense provides a report on validated requirements and technical, programmatic, and cost analyses of the program's path forward.
- **Space-Based missile defense:** Repeals FY18 NDAA requirement for a space-based missile defense test bed.
- **Conventional Prompt Strike:** Directs the Secretary of the Navy to develop a conventional prompt strike hypersonic capability for deployment on surface ship platforms (instead of limiting it to ambiguous sub-launched which could increase the risks of miscalculation).





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ADDRESSES CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

- **Annual report on strikes undertaken by the United States against terrorist targets outside areas of active hostilities:** Directs a two-year reporting requirement to the Director of National Intelligence and Secretary of Defense to submit a coordinated, corroborated report on civilian casualties resulting from U.S. strikes against terrorist targets outside areas of active hostilities. Partially reinstates the previous administration's Executive Order to report on U.S. activities outside areas of military engagement.
- **Modification of annual report on civilian casualties in connection with United States military operations:** Directs additional reporting requirements in the annual Department of Defense report on civilian casualties, increasing accountability and transparency by the Department in the way civilian casualties are accounted for, tracked, and reported.
- **Assessment of standards, processes, procedures, and policy relating to civilian casualties:** Directs an independent study of Department of Defense standards, processes, procedures, and policy relating to the accounting, tracking, and reporting of civilian casualties resulting from U.S. military operations.
- **Independent assessment on gender and countering violent extremism:** Directs the Secretaries of Defense and State to coordinate on an independent study of the relationship between gender – specifically the role of women – and violent extremism as a means of highlighting and advancing the role(s) of women as key contributors to peace processes, under the auspices of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017.
- **Condolence payments to redress loss (ex gratia):** Establishes a global authority for the U.S. Military to redress injury and loss to civilian personnel inadvertently caused by U.S. Armed Forces, a coalition that includes the U.S., or a military organization supporting the US.





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MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ, SYRIA, AND IRAN

- **Requires stricter Congressional oversight of U.S. military activity in Iraq and Syria.** Fences funding if DOD fails to provide all past, overdue reports related to U.S. military activities in Iraq and Syria by January 1, 2020 and requires DOD to consult with the Government of Iraq on its activities in Iraq.
- **Includes a rule of construction that nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act may be construed to authorize the use of military force against Iran.**
- **Sanctions the Syrian Assad regime and those who assist its military campaign against the Syrian people.** The NDAA includes the **CAESAR Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019**, which applies sanctions to those who lend support to the Assad regime's military efforts in the Syrian civil war, and grants authorities to the Secretary of State to support entities collecting evidence and pursuing prosecutions against those who have committed war crimes in Syria.

AFGHANISTAN

- Provides \$4.5 billion to continue building the Afghan security forces and modifies reporting requirements to enhance oversight of the Department's South Asia Strategy.
- The authorization continues to include requirements to develop Gender Programs for the recruitment, retention, and professional development of women in the ANDSF.
- Requires the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to work to ensure the meaningful participation of Afghan women in the ongoing peace process in Afghanistan.

YEMEN AND SAUDI ARABIA

- **Prohibits in-flight refueling to the Saudi-led coalition for two years**, unless and until a specific authorization from Congress is enacted.
- **Drives accountability for the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi and highlights Saudi human rights abuses.** The NDAA requires an intelligence assessment from the Director of National Intelligence, naming those responsible for Jamal Khashoggi's murder. It also requires a report from the Secretary of State detailing Saudi Arabia's gross human rights violations.
- **Enhances transparency and accountability through the establishment of additional civilian casualty reporting elements.** It also requires an independent assessment of the Department of Defense standards, processes, procedures, and policy relating to civilian casualties resulting from United States military operations. Additionally, it requires the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, **to submit a report detailing the number of civilian casualties caused by the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen.**
- **Condolence payments to redress loss (ex gratia):** Establishes a global authority for the U.S. Military to redress injury and loss to civilian personnel inadvertently caused by U.S. Armed Forces, a coalition that includes the U.S., or a military organization supporting the US.





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RUSSIA & EUROPE

- **Reverses President Trump's cuts to the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI)**, providing an additional \$734.3 million for military construction, anti-submarine warfare, and other urgent priorities to deter Russia and work with U.S. allies and partners.
 - **Funds EDI needs at \$6.4 billion for FY 2020, compared with the President's request for \$5.7 billion.**
- **Increases funding for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which provides support and assistance to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, by \$50 million, bringing the funding level to \$300 million** in order to provide robust ongoing support of Ukraine's efforts to counter Russian aggression. Adds coastal defense cruise missiles and anti-ship missiles to the categories of appropriate security assistance and intelligence support.
- **Prohibits the use of federal funds to suspend, terminate, or file notice for withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty (NATO).**
- **Expresses the sense of Congress in strong support of the U.S. commitment to the NATO alliance.**
- **Provides new mechanisms to enhance transparency, strengthen Congressional oversight, identify whether the President is attempting to cut plans for future military investment in Europe, and prevent EDI funds from diversion for other purposes by the military services when included in the base budget.**
- **Includes numerous provisions countering Russian influence and election interference efforts as part of the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA), which is included in the NDAA.**
- **Continues to limit-military-to-military cooperation with Russia**, extending a rule of construction that the prohibition does not affect bilateral military-to-military dialogue for the purposes of reducing the risk of conflict.
- **Extends the prohibition on funding for any activity that would recognize the sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea.**
- **Imposes sanctions related to the construction of the Nord Stream II pipeline project.**
- **Includes a statement of the conferees expressing concern about dangerous Russian actions that pose threats to commercial aviation and navigation**, and urging exploration of updates to arrangements with Russia to reduce the risk of miscalculation and unintended escalation, including incidents on the high seas, accidents in the air, and misinterpretation of military exercises.

TURKEY

- **Prohibits the transfer of an F-35 aircraft or related materials to Turkey, now that Turkey has taken possession of the S-400 air defense system.**
- **Allows a waiver if Turkey were to abandon the S-400 air and missile defense system**, along with any other equipment, materials, or personnel associated with the system; refrain from acquiring new Russian equipment that would risk compromising the F-35; and provide credible assurances that it would not take possession of an S-400 in the future.





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ACQUISITION POLICY

- **Modifies cost or pricing data requirements in light of Transdigm that ensures contractors comply with request to provide other than certified cost and pricing data** on below threshold contracts to contracting officers to ensure price reasonableness or face ineligibility for award unless the head of the contracting activity or designee determines it is in the best interest of the Government to make the award to that offeror.
- **Incentivizes contractors to invest in workforce development programs to address the workforce needs of the Department of Defense** by requiring the Secretary of Defense to include an evaluation of contractor workforce development programs in the contract past performance system.
- **Establishes a small business contracting credit for subcontractors that are businesses located in United States territories.**
- **Requires human rights violations policies and procedures for contractors** to report gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.
- **Requires cost estimates for ecommerce** to be delivered by the GSA on models of commercial e-commerce portal program.
- **Updates the defense acquisition workforce certification, education, career fields and public-private sector exchange.**
- Establishes acquisition pathways for software applications and software upgrades
- **Prohibits acquisition of tantalum from non-allied foreign nations and allows disposal of certain rare earth materials.**
- Requires cybersecurity certifications relating to certain rail rolling stock to prevent federal transit financial assistance from being used to award a contract or subcontract for the procurement of passenger rail cars or transit buses to certain state-owned, controlled or subsidized enterprises with allowance for two-year grace period.
- Directs agencies to accelerate payment of small business prime contractors to the fullest extent possible, with a goal of 15 days after receipt of proper invoice.
- Moves procurement technical assistance cooperative agreement program to the Office of Industrial Policy within DOD to ensure high visibility and better market research access of contracting officials for businesses to compete for DOD contracts.
- **Modernizes acquisition processes to ensure integrity of industrial base and mitigation of risks related to foreign ownership, control, or influence of Department of Defense contractors or subcontractors.**
- **Limits the removal of Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. from entity list of Bureau of Industry and Security with in-depth reporting requirement to monitor export activity.**





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SECURITY COOPERATION, STABILIZATION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY

- Invests in lessons learned, transparency, and accountability by **requiring DOD security cooperation funds to be dedicated toward assessment, monitoring, and evaluation.**
- **Encourages DOD to integrate gender perspectives and meaningful participation by women in security cooperation authorities.**
- **Authorizes the use of up to \$18 million to provide logistical support to stabilization activities of the Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development and other federal agencies** in certain countries emerging from conflict.
- Authorizes two-year extension of the Global Security Contingency Fund.
- Requires an annual report on any instances in which a foreign government transfers any defense articles provided by DOD to a unit within that foreign government or groups or organizations that are prohibited from receiving assistance or have committed gross violations of human rights.
- Requires a report that assesses the human rights climate in Brazil and whether Brazilian security-force units that engaged in human rights abuses received or purchased United States equipment or training.
- Requires a report that assesses the human rights climate in Honduras and compliance of the military and security forces of Honduras with international human rights laws and standards.
- Requires a report on security sector assistance for the Philippines National Police, including an identification of any units determined or credibly alleged to have committed human rights abuses and a description of the relationship of those units with units that receive U.S. assistance.
- Prohibits the transfer or purchase vehicles for any joint task force in Guatemala unless the Secretary of Defense certifies that relevant ministries have made a credible commitment to use the equipment only for purposes intended.





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OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Requires the Secretary of Defense to provide** to the chairman and ranking member of each of the congressional defense committees, and their designated staff with the appropriate security clearance, **copies of each execute order issued by the Secretary or by a commander of a combatant command before the date of the enactment of this Act**, and within 30 days of issuing an execute order after the date of the enactment of this Act.
- Makes permanent section 1264 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) that **required the President to submit a report to the appropriate congressional committee on the legal and policy frameworks for the use of military force and related national security operations.**
- **Modifies current reporting requirements regarding civilian casualties** by adding additional elements, such as an evaluation of the general reasons for discrepancies between DOD and other non-governmental reporting.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for conduct of an independent assessment of the sufficiency of DOD standards, processes, procedures, and policy relating to civilian casualties resulting from United States military operations.

GUANTANAMO BAY DETENTION FACILITY

- **Creates a new Chief Medical Officer for Guantanamo** to oversee detainee medical care decisions, outside of the Guantanamo and SOUTHCOM chains of command.
- **Retains status quo restrictions on Guantanamo detainee transfers and does not expand the list of countries blacklisted** for detainee transfer to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Venezuela, and four other countries.
- **Does not provide the Guantanamo military commissions with a new contempt power** that would enable them to impose penalties on non-detainee civilians for the first time.

